

Cohasset Churches



St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Parish (Episcopal), South Main Street 383-1083. The Rev. Richard Muir. Sunday services at 8 and 10 a.m. Nursery care provided for 10 a.m. service.

St. Anthony's

St. Anthony's Church, Summer and South Main Streets. 383-0219. The Rev. John J. Keohane, pastor; the Rev. Charles R. McKenny, SJ, associate. Saturday mass at 5 p.m. Sunday masses at 7, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Daily mass at 7 a.m., Saturday at 8 a.m. Sacrament of penance Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m.

Congregational

Second Congregational Church in Cohasset (United Church of Christ), 43 Highland Ave. 383-0345. The Rev. John Benbow. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Church School at 10 a.m. Nursery and child care provided.

First Parish

First Parish Church in Cohasset (Unitarian-Universalist), 23 North Main St. 383-1100. The Rev. Edward Atkinson. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting house on the Common. Church School at 10:15 a.m. in the parish house across the street.

Community

South Shore Christian Community (Non Denominational), 7 Depot Court. 383-6683. Communion services 6:15 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. Sat. and Sun. Counselling available by appointment. Public classes Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m.

United

Beechwood Congregational United Church of Christ, Church Street, 383-0808. Rev. Robert Campbell. Sunday services 10:45 a.m. Nursery care provided. Church school 9:30 a.m.



The Cohasset Chimney Sweeper

Meet Jeff Ludlow, Alias August West

He arrives in a top hat, mildly besmirched with a by-product of his trade. The tools for his work are stacked in a truck, still trimmed with a Christmas wreath, and topped by a sign that reads, "August West, Chimney Sweep."

He is a 20th century entrepreneur of an age-old skill. And his given name is Jeffrey Ludlow. A resident of Cohasset, Ludlow adopted the trade name of August West in deference to a celebrated English sweep by that name.

Not many years ago, Jeff was a salesman, traveling the many miles in his job of covering the New England area. In the process of evaluating his fatiguing way of life, he discovered his chimney needed cleaning. And...it wasn't all that easy to find someone who could do it.

He searched for a means of gaining technical know-how the job would require and found a training and apprenticeship program for chimney sweeps in Connecticut. That done, Jeff, nee August West was in business. Not counting his truck, he put up about \$3000 to start but keeps adding to his equipment.

When he started, three years ago, he used a car and trailer. Now he needs a bigger truck and has added masonry repair and rebuilding to his job description. Fall is his big chimney sweeping time. And he estimates he's cleaned more than 1000 chimneys since he started, most of them on the South Shore.

His wife, Marcia, handles the books, the organization, the scheduling of his work, in addition to overseeing their four small children. West's combination card and bill advertises his work, "Call for whatever soots you."

Perhaps 10 years ago an enterprising man would not have been able to support himself cleaning chimneys. In the past few years, however, with the rekindled interest in wood as fuel, the need for a chimney sweep has risen sharply. Jeff and wood stoves came into demand nearly simultaneously.

Though August West's approach to his work is somewhat colorful, as a chimney sweep he's more genteel than

showy. He says he uses both the American and European methods of cleaning. The American way, it seems, is to clean the chimney from the bottom up. The European style is opposite, cleaning from the top down.

Jeff says he hasn't fallen off a roof yet, though he's had some close calls. Gusts of wind are the greatest danger. He doesn't ordinarily secure himself while working topside, unless he'll be there an hour or two.

His basic equipment includes a barrel-size vacuum and 30 different sizes of wire brushes and ladder. He spreads a large protective blanket on the floor in front of a fireplace or stove before starting his work of setting up the ladder and toting his brushes to the roof. He doesn't work in a downpour or snowstorm but can carry on throughout all seasons.

He says his work has been "very rewarding." One of the results in addition to a livelihood is a strong physical tune-up for the sweep. Jeff says it probably took him a year and a half before he was fully in shape for the skills in agility he needs.

In addition to baling out dirt from chimneys, he's removed squirrels, their nests, racoons families, birds and bats. But mostly, he's confronted with chimneys that are just plain dirty. He cautions woodburners to use seasoned wood. The green variety, he says, leaves creosote deposits that hasten and heighten the potential for chimney fires.

As for when or how often chimneys need sweeping, Jeff says the National Fire Protection Association suggests it be done every 150 uses. As a further barometer, the sweep says users of fireplaces and woodstoves (not the airtight variety) have a sweeping every three or four years. But people who use air-tight wood-

stoves as a constant source of heat should see to cleaning once a year for safety's sake.

August West's elegant 'work' hat was sent from California. When he started the business, he picked up one from a formal wear business, the old collapsible variety. He also owns a beaverskin top hat, but that gets used only for special occasions, like meetings

of the Chimney Sweep Guild.

Jeff maintains many traditions associated with the craft. He says it's good luck to shake hands with a chimney sweep. Some of us can't do it fast enough. We know it's good insurance, if not guaranteed good fortune, to have a handshake on clean chimneys.



ASSEMBLY FOR LIFE IN MEMORIAM

JANUARY 22, 1973

JANUARY 22, 1979



To Commemorate the Loss of Untold Millions of Innocent Lives
Massachusetts Citizens For Life Invites Your Participation
Time: 12:00 Noon, Sunday January 21, 1979

Place: Faneuil Hall

Cohasset Chapter, Mass. Citizens For Life
For Further Information Call (617) 964-7220

Around Town

A daughter, Josephine, was born Jan. 10 at Brockton Hospital to William and Winifred Hurley of Highland Avenue. She joins her sisters Anna, 8, Elizabeth 7, and Mary 5. Grandmothers are Mrs. Joseph Hurley of Salem and Mrs. W. Mary Potter of England.

Sally Brewer's friends will be happy to hear that she has returned to her South Main Street home after an extended hospital stay. Mrs. Brewer is an active member of the community and is known for her flower arrangements for the Garden Club.